

social dogma

FILM PORTRAITS FROM A MEDIA PARTNERSHIP

A film project by Thomas Henke with the help of students from the Fachhochschule Bielefeld, Social Services Department

In the „Social Dogma“ project, students from the Fachhochschule Bielefeld produced film portraits in the context of a media partnership. The results are to be seen at the Kunsthalle Bielefeld starting 14. July.

The exhibit accompanying the project shows film portraits of people in special life circumstances. The portraits mirror in different ways the multilayered living conditions of different minorities in our society. For the project, eleven so-called media partnerships were formed between students from the Social Services Department and persons who were willing to record themselves on the medium of film.

The students accompanied their respective partners over a protracted period of time in the making of the film portraits. They induced their partners to film themselves and their immediate surroundings and to document their thoughts and feelings. Such intense (self-)portraits emerged on the basis of the relations cultivated that they conveyed the sense of a special closeness to the subject portrayed.

Alongside the social topos, „Social Dogma“ also covers an aesthetic dogma that seeks to explore alternative paths in the production of portrait images untrod by the stereotyped idioms of mass media.

Midway stands the experimental handling of the medium: by means of different film strategies, the project participants investigate multilayered modalities of production. The consciously subjective application of the medium reveals an unmistakably individual film language.

Thus, the portraits mirror the complex process of coming to terms with different planes and levels of reality. Released by the partnering relationship and the interaction documented in the medium, the tension between film reality and the immediate experience of the counterpart becomes palpable.

Following the major project Liquid Identities (2003–2009), media artist Thomas Henke, together with his students, presents deeper explorations with the Video Portrait format.

Opening with the Summer Festival at the Sculpture Park of Kunsthalle Bielefeld on Wednesday, 14 July 2010 at 20:00.

The Exhibit is to be seen at the Kunsthalle Studiengalerie up to 26 Sept. 2010.

A film project by Thomas Henke with
Sarah Althoff, Tina Althoff, Younes Azlafy, Alexander Brandt, Janine Brandt, Svetlana Derevyagina, Philipp Dick, Konrad Gerull, Tobias Hille, Marnie Ledermann, Dana Meier, Tobias Nagel, Nicole Nöding, Alina Reimann, Esther Schmieding, Mehrdad Seifi, Bettina Staschkiewicz, Robert Steinmeier, Christina Thielscher, Anna Christina Thomale, Regina Wall, Julia Wienböcker, Kristina & Stefan & Irina

Dramaturgy and Montage: Oliver Held
Exhibition Architecture: Lorenz Estermann

in cooperation with the up-and-coming
International Film Festival Hannover

Social Dogma is accompanied by a comprehensive publication from
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More information at www.socialdogma.de